

REMARKS

Claims 1-18 and 22-24 are now pending in the present application. Claims 19-21 have been canceled, without prejudice or disclaimer, claims 1-18 have been amended, and claims 22-24 are newly added. Reconsideration of this application, as amended, is respectfully requested.

Restriction Requirement

The Examiner has required election in the present application between:

Group I, claims 1-18, drawn to a filling process and an apparatus; and

Group II, claims 19-21, drawn to a pliable container.

In making the restriction requirement, the Examiner noted that the above groups of inventions were not linked so as to form a single general inventive concept under PCT Rule 13.1 and, in accordance with 37 CFR 1.499, required Applicant to elect a single invention to which the claims must be restricted.

For the purpose of examination of the present application, Applicants elect, without traverse, Group I, Claims 1-18. Newly added claims 22-24 depend from independent claim 1. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully request consideration of newly added dependent claims 22-24.

Because Applicant has elected Group I, claims 1-18, Applicant has cancelled claims 19-21. **Applicants reserve the right to file a divisional application directed to the non-elected claims at a later date if it is so desired.**

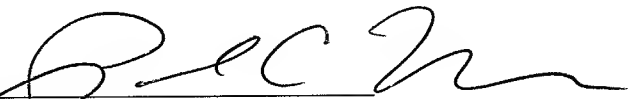
Should there be any outstanding matters that need to be resolved in the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact Chad D. Wells, Registration No 50,875 at the telephone number of the undersigned below, to conduct an interview in an effort to expedite prosecution in connection with the present application.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to our Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 or under § 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

Dated: April 30, 2008

Respectfully submitted,

By



Paul C. Lewis

Registration No.: 43,368

BIRCH, STEWART, KOLASCH & BIRCH, LLP

8110 Gatehouse Road

Suite 100 East

P.O. Box 747

Falls Church, Virginia 22040-0747

(703) 205-8000

Attorney for Applicant